

ICE STORM IN ILLINOIS.

[By CLARENCE J. ROOT, Section Director, Springfield, Ill.]

A severe ice storm occurred throughout the north third of the State on the 21st. Rain began on the night of the 20th and continued throughout the 21st and into the night. The temperature was near freezing during much of the time, and as the rain fell it froze to all objects, forming a heavy coating of ice on wires, trees, and other objects. The storm is reported to have been the worst of the kind in years. The cooperative observer at Pawpaw, Lee County, reports: "Old-timers say that it was the heaviest coating of ice and the most destructive ice storm ever seen." Electric wires and poles and fruit and shade trees suffered extensively. Telephone, telegraph, and interurban services were badly crippled, and the repair work had not been completed at the close of the month. At Rockford the wires of all four companies were down, and press reports state that street cars, lights, and electric power were out of service at Elgin.

[By S. P. PETERSON, Observer, La Salle, Ill.]

On the night of the 20th-21st a rain and sleet storm began. The sleet ended before daylight, but the rain continued until near 12 o'clock midnight of the 21st. The temperature was at the freezing point during most of the time from 1 a. m. to 3 p. m. on the 21st. As the rain fell it froze into a sheeting of ice on elevated objects, and telephone and telegraph wires and the branches of trees became heavily loaded with ice. Much damage was done to trees on account of branches being broken off by the weight of the ice. Some of these branches were 5 inches in diameter. Telegraph and telephone poles went down by the mile owing to the weight of the ice-coated wires. Except for one line running to Ottawa, a city 16 miles away, La Salle was cut off from wire communication with all outside points. Railroad and street

car traffic was seriously impeded. It is estimated that the damage to the telephone interests in this vicinity alone was about \$50,000. A brisk wind during the night of the 21st-22d, together with a moderately high temperature, caused the sheeting of ice to completely disappear by the morning of the 22d.

GEORGE HENRICH.

The death of George Henrich, cooperative observer at Mascoutah, Ill., occurred on February 25, 1913. Although Mr. Henrich had tendered his resignation on account of illness, he continued to take the observations to within a day or two of his death. He served as cooperative observer since 1907, but his private records extend back more than 50 years.

WHITTAKER HOLDEN.

Whittaker Holden, one of the oldest cooperative observers in Illinois, died at his home in Aurora on March 3. Mr. Holden was born in England in 1832 and came to Aurora 58 years ago. He was always interested in meteorology and during the last 25 years of his life acted as official Government observer at Aurora. His private instruments and Weather Bureau equipment occupied the same position during the entire period. During all this time he furnished daily reports to a leading newspaper, continuing the service, with the aid of his family, to the day of his death. Mr. Holden was a man of splendid character and was much loved in the community, where his reports were of general interest. He was devoted to the work, and shortly before his death asked for his barometer in order that he might hold it once more. The work at Aurora will be continued by his daughter, Miss Alice M. Holden.